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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 23, 1998

Contact: Bill Johnston, UM Alumni Association director, (406) 243-5211.

UM HONORS RITTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSOULA--

A Helena business and community leader will receive a service award from his alma mater, The University of Montana-Missoula, Thursday, Oct. 29.

Russell J. Ritter, director of Corporate and Government Relations for Washington Corps. and president of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, will receive UM's Community Service Award during a 5 p.m. reception at Jorgenson's. A UM delegation will host the reception, which also is intended to thank Helena-area alumni and friends for their support of campus. The public is invited for complimentary snack and a no-host bar will be offered.

In addition, Ritter and all Helena fans will be recognized during the Montana Grizzlies' football game against the Idaho State Bengals at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Ritter's longtime service to the Helena community and the University earned him special tribute. He spent 22 years as a leader at Carroll College, serving as director of Development and Community Relations from 1969 to 1976, and as vice president for College Relations and executive director/executive secretary-treasurer for the Carroll College Foundation from 1976 to 1991. He joined Washington Corps. in 1991.

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Ritter served two elected terms as a Helena city commissioner from 1977 until 1981, when he was elected mayor of Helena, a position he held for five terms. After earning a master's degree in history and political science from UM in 1962, Ritter taught classes and coached at Flathead High School in Kalispell until 1969, when he went to work for Carroll College.

An active member of the Helena and Montana chambers of commerce, Ritter has held executive officer and board positions in those organizations for several decades. He has been a member of the Helena Rotary Club since 1970.

At UM Ritter serves as a member of the President's Advisory Council, a citizens group of about 75 members from across the state who meet twice a year with UM President George Dennison. He was a member of the Helena region committee for UM's Capital Campaign, which concluded in October 1997 after raising more than \$71 million in five years.

Helena is the sixth stop on UM's statewide Community Days tour, which was revived this year after a 10-year hiatus. Receptions are held to honor Grizzly fans in their communities before each home game.

Bill Johnston, executive director of the UM Alumni Association, said the event was revived as a way to "recognize and thank people across Montana for their support of UM."

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Helena media, Great Falls Tribune, Kalispell Daily Inter Lake
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